

Message Text

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S E C R E T AMMAN 3802

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, KS, XF

SUBJECT: KOREA AND NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC)

REFS: A) STATE 093100; B) AMMAN 3789

1. DCM PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE TO GOJ MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SADIQ AS SHARI OUTLINING (PER PARA 4 REFTEL) USG POSITION ON KOREA AND NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC). EMBASSY APPROACH FOLLOWED DEMARCHE ON SAME SUBJECT MADE BY KOREAN VICE MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS KIM DONG-WHIE DURING HIS JUNE 1-3 VISIT TO JORDAN (REFTEL B).

2. SHARI SAID HE HAD TOLD KIM DONG-WHIE THAT GOJ POLITICAL ATTITUDE IS BASICALLY FAVORABLE TO ROK ON GENERAL ISSUE. SHARI INFORMED DCM HOWEVER THAT GOJ COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT IN ADVANCE TO PUSHING ROK ADMISSION BECAUSE OF CONSIDERATIONS OF ARAB LEAGUE CONSENSUS.

3. SHARI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GOJ DELEGATION WOULD LOBBY ACTIVELY FOR POSITION FAVORABLE TO ROK ADMISSION AMONG OTHER ARAB DELEGATIONS, GOJ WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO FOLLOW WHATEVER ARAB LEAGUE CONSENSUS WAS DEVELOPED ON SUCH ISSUES. SHARI STATED THAT, EVEN IN EVENT GOJ UNABLE TO SWING ARAB LEAGUE CONSENSUS TO SUPPORT ROK

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, HE DID NOT THINK GOJ WOULD

VOTE FOR ADMISSION OF NORTH KOREA. SHAR'I ADDED THAT SITUATION WOULD BE BETTER IF NEITHER KOREAS WERE ADMITTED UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. WE RESPONDED THAT OUR ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO BLOCK NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP, BUT IF THAT BECOMES UNFEASIBLE, USG WOULD CERTAINLY WISH TO ENSURE EQUIVALENT TREATMENT OF SOUTH KOREA BY ALSO ADMITTING IT TO MEMBERSHIP IN NAC.

4. SHAR'I SAID GOJ HAS NOT YET RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO NAC BUT WOULD PLAN TO SEND DELEGATION AT WHATEVER LEVEL IS REQUIRED. SHAR'I HIMSELF WOULD ATTEND IF NAC IS AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE HIS POSITION, SHAR'I IS INEXPERIENCED IN DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS AND HIS VIEWS MAY NOT BE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE WAY GOJ POSITION WILL DEVELOP UNDER PRESSURE OF NAC. WE THINK ULTIMATE GOJ POSITION WILL BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY POSITION OF SAUDI ARABIA, TUNISIA, MOROCCO AND OTHER CONSERVATIVE ARABS ON THIS ISSUE. IT APPEARS THAT GOJ MIGHT SUPPORT (BUT NOT INITIATE) A MOTION TO DENY MEMBERSHIP TO BOTH KOREAS, PARTICULARLY IF OTHER ARAB SUPPORT ALSO CAN BE DEVELOPED. HOWEVER, GOJ (OR AT LEAST SHAR'I) AT THIS POINT SEEMS UNWILLING TO DEPART FROM ANY STRONG ARAB LEAGUE CONSENSUS IF, IN EVENT OF ADMISSION OF NORTH KOREA, CONSENSUS SHOULD THEN DEVELOP AGAINST ADMISSION OF ROK. WE ARE PREPARED TO APPROACH PRIME MINISTER ON ISSUE, IF AT A CRUCIAL STAGE IT APPEARS FIRMER GOJ SUPPORT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.
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